

New Cause for High Prices

Said to Be Pride and Vanity on the Part of the People.

By Dr. Le Grand Powers, Agricultural Statistician of the Census Bureau.



PEOPLE nowadays—I mean the average people, common people, if you will—insist upon having the best of everything," said Dr. Powers. "The workingman insists upon the finest cuts of meat, and he buys better meat, perhaps, than the salaried or professional man. He does not subscribe to the shibboleth doctrine of Edward Atkinson. He has a feeling that he is as good as anybody else, and this feeling asserts itself in his purchases. That is vanity.

You remember the time, perhaps, when a man who wanted to buy a steak threw his basket over his arm and went to the grocery after it. But he won't carry a bundle now. His meat must be sent to him. That is pride. It is safe to estimate that it costs 5 cents per steak for every cut that is delivered to a house. The same is true with other commodities of every-day necessity. The man whose food is delivered to him by the green grocer or the butcher pays the freight.

You may take any article you please and you will find that the margin between the manufacturer and the consumer is constantly increasing. The middleman or dealer is the gainer, to a considerable degree, although he is not responsible altogether for the high prices of foods. He must meet the consumer's fancies; he must make his goods look attractive, and he must lay them at the door of the household. All of this costs money, and, of course, the consumer pays the freight.

People want prepared breakfast foods now where they used to be satisfied with oatmeal and mush, or dishes or cakes made of flour. A barrel of flour sells anywhere from \$4 to \$6 for a barrel of 196 pounds, according to the price of wheat, but people do not buy barrels of flour as of yore. They demand it in fancy packages and sometimes get it in the form of prepared foods. The flour that goes into a one-pound package costs about a quarter of a cent. The consumer pays much more, of course. The price for this one-pound package is higher than it ought to be. It probably cost eight or ten cents where it should not cost more than five or six. The higher price to the consumer is the result of the fancy package, demanded by widely spreading national vanity, and further to the fact that the article must be delivered, a service that is demanded by the pride of the purchaser.

People are spending money nowadays and they are spending it fast. Our prosperity depends upon the spending. If everybody hoarded what he earned prosperity would cease. We would fry in our own fat.

The Horror of Needless Noises

By W. D. Howells.



IT is the heedlessness of most noises that renders them insufferable. You sleep very well through the roar of a windy storm, but if some one has forgotten to fasten a blind, and it begins to bang, then you are lost; you might as well get up and locate that blind and fasten it first as last. The manifold noises of your steamer's plunge through the night, with the perpetual wash of the sea, unite in a lullaby to which the worst conscience sinks into repose, but a snore breaking from the next stateroom recalls the memory of all one's sins. The rush and leap and incessant but varied grind and clang of the sleeping car become soothing at last, but a radiator, beginning to fizz and click after the steam has been turned off, seems to leave the would-be sleeper no resource but suicide; if you could get at the second engineer, and leave him waltering in his gore, you could snatch a few cat-naps before morning; but you cannot get at the second engineer after midnight in most hotels. Continuous noises and necessary noises are things you can adjust senses or your spirits to; but the noise without a reason, without an apparent right, like the gnawing of a rat in the wainscot, is what drives so many to perdition; and the clatter of the power-dory will probably ever long fill the asylum from the seaside cottages. It is not impossible, however, that many summer cottages are now being equipped with machine-guns that will sweep every power-dory from the sea. These guns will be worked on a pivot and will equally clear the roads of unmuffled automobiles, and blow to atoms any motorman about to sound the whistle of a trolley car.—Harper's Magazine.

Superstitions of Modern Times

By Lady Violet Greville.



THE story of the prima donna who would not sing until her mascot, the stag's head, was installed over her chimney piece is a type of modern superstition. We are quite as credulous this 26th century as our forefathers of mediaeval times.

What woman does not believe one of her gowns to be lucky and the other unlucky? How many refuse to don opals, while others carry a fetich in the shape of a crooked six-pence or rusty nail, a lucky shamrock, or a hideous little silver pig about them? Everywhere superstition meets one.

It is awfully unlucky to break a looking glass, Friday is a bad day to start on a journey, Sunday is the day that all the best things in life have happened to one; these are some of the sayings that reach one's ears habitually. I even know some who think the letter of a person's name lucky or the contrary, and refuse to make acquaintance with people bearing the fatal letter.

Curious legends and curses hang about houses and families. In one case a belief was current that the owners of a particular place would never have male heirs to succeed them in direct line. The house was sold twice to different owners, and the curse always came true. The present proprietor has only daughters and no male relative to continue the line. These are, no doubt, coincidences, but they are curious nevertheless, and probably have originated from some definite cause.

The Wife Who Is Growing Dissatisfied

By Mary Stewart Cutting.



NOW many a girl is taught dissatisfaction from the moment she marries—not an ennobling spirit, but the contrary. She starts life from a false point of view. Marriage and the "happy ever after" give way to prospective pity. She is pitied for everything; pitied because "a woman has so much to go through;" pitied for having a house to look after when she has a baby too, and for having the sewing on her hands, and for being "tied down;" pitied because "her husband doesn't realize all she goes through"—though, goodness knows, it isn't because she doesn't tell him, and it's her right to tell him if she wants to. She is pitied because she can't go to parties and make calls, and pitied for every ache and pain and limitation, as if that ache or pain or limitation were in itself an end of life, not something that in its very nature is fleeting and changeable—as if each cause for pity had not its root in some joy or some gain or some privilege. Sympathy helps, but the thing that makes this mistaken pity blight instead of restore is the fact that it accentuates unduly where it cannot alleviate. In spite of the pity of her world, the married girl has to keep up with the work and the responsibility and the pains and aches just the same; they are hers, no one can take them from her.—Harper's Bazar.

The Birth of "Mother Earth."

Thirty-six Thousand Pounds of Marble.



The Norwegian sculptor, Stephan Sindling, has already devoted eight years to the making of his colossal statue, "Mother Earth," which has necessitated the use of 36,000 pounds of Carrara marble. Our photograph shows the sculptor at work in the yard of the Sculpture Gallery at Copenhagen.

COUNTESS CARLISLE.

New World Head of the Women's Temperance Union.

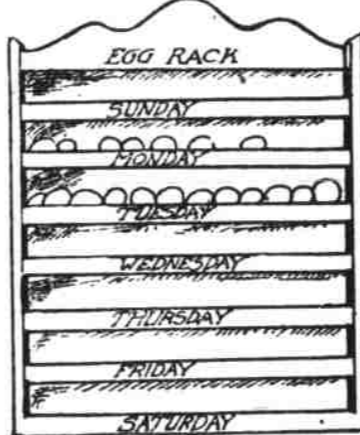
To be known as Mrs. Rosalind Carlisle, instead of "My Lady," is the desire of the democratic Countess of Carlisle, who has recently been elected World W. C. T. U. President. Only the united protests and appeals of her entire family and consideration for their wishes have kept her from, long ago, abrogating the titles which are hers by both birth and marriage. The Countess was Lady Rosalind Frances Stanley, youngest daughter of Baron Stanley, of Adderley, before her marriage to the Earl of Carlisle, forty years ago. She has always been simple and unaffected in manner and style and the soul of kindness and charity. She goes about among her tenants much as the late Queen Victoria did when on her visits to her favorite home, at Balmoral Castle, Scotland. The people are all known to her by name and all respect and love her.

The cares of a large family and households seems to have strengthened and developed Lady Carlisle's natural administrative genius. While she is known in England as a woman of most pronouncedly radical views on all subjects, she is respected as a splendid type of English womanhood. Her success in reclaiming several thousand acres of barren lands on the big family estate of Castle Harward, at York, has attracted the attention of scientific agriculturists.

Handy Egg Rack.

The accompanying photograph shows an egg rack which I find of great convenience, as it enables the family to know on just what day the eggs on hand were laid, writes D. H. Buell in Suburban Life.

The idea was brought to my mind while getting a lot of eggs daily, as we occasionally had a spoiled one



on the table, due to the fact that all of the eggs, as fast as collected, were placed in an egg basket, there being no way of telling the oldest eggs from those just laid.

The rack is very simple, and any man handy with tools can put it together in a few hours. A cabinet-maker near me has made them for \$1.25.



A FAMOUS WOMAN—COUNTESS CARLISLE.

Lady Carlisle began her public life in the interests of woman's enfranchisement, of which she is a pioneer advocate. She has no neutral tints, but is straight-hued in all her efforts. The extermination of the liquor traffic is her ideal.

The accompanying portrait shows the Countess of Carlisle as she appears at the present time. The picture, however, does not do her justice. She has the rosy complexion of the British matron and the genial smile and kindly look of the optimist and humanitarian. Although her figure approaches embonpoint, she carries herself with dignity and is a fine-looking woman. Lady Carlisle is about sixty years of age and at the height of her powers.

Carroll D. Wright pronounces pessimism our greatest menace.

Warm Winters in Europe.

A Russian meteorologist, Woeikof, has been studying the temperature recorded at Stockholm, Sweden, for the 150 years which precede 1906. He finds that there is a disposition toward warm winters there about once in eight years. This period does not correspond with that of sun spot frequency or any other phenomenon external to the earth. Woeikof therefore attributes it to such changes in the distribution of air pressure as alter the direction of the prevailing winds. He has discovered that the situation at St. Petersburg corresponds rather closely to that of Stockholm, but he declares that when the winters are mild in Northern Europe they are usually severe in the south, and especially in the southwest.

NEW IDEAS IN JOULETTES

New York City.—The close fitting little cap of the Dutch sort is one of the best liked head coverings for the smaller children and is always becoming, while it can be made from a variety of materials. Here are two that allow of almost every possible variation. The two-piece cap can be made of taffeta, of velvet, of cloth or silk, while the one-piece cap is adapted to the thinner materials and is peculiarly desirable for lawn and other washable fabrics. When made from this or from thin silk it can be

New Rain Coat. One of the new rain coat designs shows a loose back, the fulness of which is arranged in a deep box pleat held in place by the rounded lower edge of the yoke.

Worn With Blue.

Many of the furs are used almost entirely for trimmings. The natural lynx makes a very handsome fur set. It does delightfully as a boa, and it is very becoming made up into a big, flat pillow muff. It also trims a coat well, and it goes nicely with brown or with blue. It is just the fur for wear with a navy blue serge.

Nine-Gored Skirt.

The inverted-pleat skirt that is made with inverted pleats is a most satisfactory one from every point of view. It provides sufficient fulness for grace and flare at the lower edge, while it is stitched flat over the hips and is without bulk at that point. Again, it requires only a small amount of material where the gores can be cut in and out, and even where material must all be cut one way, leaves sufficiently large pieces to allow of cutting the suit or the gown from a comparatively small pattern. In this instance the material is a novelty goods of wool with threads of silk and the trimming is bands of taffeta, but braid can be similarly applied. Bands of broadcloth are well liked on rough material or on velvet or velveteen and again the skirt can be finished with a stitched hem only. All seasonable materials that are used for walking skirts are appropriate.

The skirt is cut in nine gores, these gores all being cut with extensions below the stitchings that are laid in inverted pleats and pressed flat.



lined throughout and consequently be made as warm and snug as need be. As illustrated the two-piece cap is made of white silk with the revers, in true Dutch style, daintily embroidered by hand while its points are held by rosettes of ribbon and there is a little frill of ribbon finishing the edge of the cap; the one-piece model is made of lawn with the revers of embroidery and the trimming of lawn rosettes and strings.

The two-piece cap consists of the head portion and the crown, which are joined one to the other and can be finished with the revers or without as may be liked. The one-piece cap is shirred to form the crown and



these shirrings can be drawn up by means of ribbons inserted in casings or simply formed by gathers as liked. There is a seam at the centre back of the head portion which can be joined or tied together at the edges, this latter plan being by far the better one when washable material is used, as the cap can then be laid open quite smooth and flat and laundered with perfect ease. It also allows a choice of a plain finish or the revers and the revers for either cape can be cut on the outlines illustrated.

The quantity of material required for the medium size (one year) is, for either cap one-half yard of material twenty-one or three-eighth yard thirty-six inches wide with one and a half yards or ruffling.

Festoon Necklaces in Favor. Festoon necklaces, which are "all the rage" in Paris, are equally high in favor on this side of the water. The new necklaces are accepted as welcome substitutes for jeweled dog collars and ropes of pearls. They would be a boon to scraggy necks, admirers of the new jewelry say, if the beauty doctors really have left any such necks. There is still a degree of "envious slenderness" extant to which the gracefully looped necklaces probably will appeal.

There also are inverted pleats at the centre back beneath which the closing is made invisibly.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is thirteen and a quarter yards twenty-seven, six and a quarter yards forty-four or five and three-quarter yards fifty-two inches wide if material has figure or nap; seven and three-quarter yards twenty-seven, five and three-eighth yards forty-four or four yards fifty-two



inches wide if it has not, with nine yards of banding to trim as illustrated.